

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 08552 151407Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----151418Z 077361 /50

O 151345Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8728

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 8552

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, PINT, SOPN, UR

SUBJECT: TOTH CASE: JUNE 15 MORNING INTERROGATION

REF: STATE 138217

1. KGB INTERROGATION OF LA TIMES CORRESPONDENT ROBERT TOTH RESUMED AT 10:00 AM JUNE 15 AT LEFORTOVO PRISON. SESSION LASTED UNTIL APPROXIMATELY 12:30 PM WHEN TOTH WAS RELEASED TO KEEP LUNCHEON APPOINTMENT WITH THE AMBASSADOR. CONSULAR OFFICER'S REQUEST TO BE PRESENT AT INTERROGATION WAS AGAIN DENIED, ALTHOUGH CONSOFF CITED DORNBERG AND PEIPERT PRECEDENTS (REFTELS). INVESTIGATORS TOLD TOTH AND CONSOFF THAT TOTH WOULD HAVE TO RETURN TO LEFORTOVO FOR AFTERNOON SESSION AT 3:30 PM. DURING DISCUSSION WITH INVESTIGATORS (IN WHICH TOTH DID NOT PARTICIPATE), CONSOFF WAS TOLD THAT INTERROGATION "MIGHT" BE COMPLETED JUNE 15. WHEN ASKED WHETHER TOTH WOULD THEN BE FREE TO DEPART USSR, INVESTIGATOR REPLIED THAT THIS WOULD BE DECIDED AT CLOSE OF JUNE 15 AFTERNOON SESSION.

2. TOTH DESCRIBED JUNE 15 SESSION AS MORE RELAXED THAN INITIAL INTERROGATION. HE STATED THAT TWO INVESTIGATORS, NEITHER OF WHOM HAD TAKEN PART IN CONFIDENTIAL

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JUNE 14 SESSION, INFORMED HIM IN RESPONSE TO HIS SPECIFIC QUERIES THAT HE IS NOT BEING CHARGED AND IS NOT THE OBJECT OF INVESTIGATION. THEY IMPLIED THAT HIS TESTIMONY WILL PROBABLY BE USED IN CASES NOW BEING BUILT AGAINST OTHERS, PROBABLY SHCHARANSKIY. TOTH STATED THAT JUNE 15 QUESTIONING DEALT EXTENSIVELY WITH HIS CONTACTS WITH SHCHARANSKIY, INCLUDING HOW

THEY BECAME ACQUAINTED, HOW SHCHARANSKIY SUPPLIED INFORMATION FOR TOTH'S STORIES, AND SHCHARANSKIY'S CONTACTS WITH OTHER WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS. TOTH'S IMPRESSION AS A RESULT OF THE JUNE 15 MORNING INTERROGATION WAS THAT ONE PARTICULAR STORY THAT HE WROTE IN NOVEMBER 1976 WAS PARTICULARLY IRRITATING TO THE SOVIETS. THIS STORY (WHICH WAS IN FACT BASED ON INFORMATION DEVELOPED BY SHCHARANSKIY) CORRELATED REFUSALS OF EXIT PERMISSION FOR CERTAIN WOULD-BE JEWISH EMIGRANTS WITH THE "SECRET" ACTIVITIES OF THE INSTITUTES IN WHICH THEY HAD WORKED. THESE INSTITUTES HAD RECEIVED HIGH TECHNOLOGY ITEMS IMPORTED FROM THE US OSTENSIBLY FOR UNCLASSIFIED PURPOSES. TOTH WAS ASKED FOR NAMES OF CORRESPONDENTS WHO CONTACTED SHCHARANSKIY AND CITED GEORGE KRIMSKY OF AP AND ALFRED FRIENDLY OF NEWSWEEK (BOTH OF WHOM HAVE LEFT.) IN THE FINAL PROTOCOL, HOWEVER, WASHINGTON POST'S PETER OSNOS WAS LISTED, BUT TOTH OBJECTED SINCE HE HAD NOT MENTIONED HIS NAME. (COMMENT: THIS MAY INDICATE SOV INTENTION SUMMON OSNOS FOR QUESTIONING PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE IN EARLY JULY.) TOTH WAS NOT ASKED AT MORNING SESSION ABOUT EMBASSY OFFICERS' CONTACTS WITH SHCHARANSKIY AND OTHER DISSIDENTS.

3. TOTH REFUSED TO SIGN THE PROTOCOL OF THIS MORNING'S SESSION AND WAS NOT PRESSED TO DO SO.

4. TOTH AGAIN TALKED BRIEFLY WITH CORRESPONDENTS WAITING OUTSIDE LEFORTOVO. TOTH TOLD PRESS THAT HE HAD BEEN QUESTIONED CLOSELY ABOUT HIS CONTACTS  
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WITH SHCHABANSKIY ESPECIALLY INFORMATION PROVIDED TO HIM BY SHCHARANSKIY FOR AN ARTICLE TOTH WROTE ON SECRET SOVIET INSTALLATIONS. (FRONTPAGE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE ISSUE OF NOVEMBER 19, 1976.)  
TOON

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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